

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A connector, comprising:

5 at least one connector port in the connector to supply power or establish communications to a printed circuit board;

at least one connector lead to connect the at least one connector port to the printed circuit board; and

10 at least one positive thermal coefficient switch connected to the at least one connector lead to cut off communications or power and protect at least one circuit in the printed circuit board.

2. The connector in claim 1, wherein the at least one positive thermal coefficient switch is an axial leaded positive thermal coefficient switch embedded
15 within the connector.

3. The connector in claim 1, wherein the at least one positive thermal coefficient switch is a surface mounted positive thermal coefficient switch mounted on the connector.

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4. The connector recited in claim 3, wherein the at least one connector lead connected to the at least one connector port is connected to at least one lead/trace embedded in or mounted on the printed circuit board.

5 5. The connector recited in claim 4, wherein the at least one connector lead connected to the at least one connector port is connected to at least one trace/lead embedded in or mounted on the printed circuit board.

6. The connector recited in claim 4, wherein the at least one lead/trace is
10 a plurality of leads/traces connected to a connector lead of the at least one connector leads, wherein the connector lead has a positive thermal coefficient switch.

7. The connector recited in claim 5, wherein the at least one lead/trace is
15 a plurality of leads/traces connected to a connector lead of the at least one connector leads, wherein the connector lead has a positive thermal coefficient switch.

8. A connector, comprising:
20 at least one connector port in the connector to supply power or establish communications to a printed circuit board;

a plurality of connector leads to connect the at least one connector port to the printed circuit board; and

a plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches connected to the plurality of connector leads to cut off communications or power and protect at least one circuit
5 in the printed circuit board.

9. The connector recited in claim 8, wherein a single connector lead of the plurality of connector leads is connected to a positive thermal coefficient switch of the plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches and is connected to a plurality
10 of leads/traces contained within the printed circuit board and connected to the at least one circuit in the printed circuit board.

10. The connector recited in claim 9, wherein the plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches are a plurality of axial leaded positive thermal coefficient
15 switches embedded within the connector.

11. The connector in claim 9, wherein the plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches are a plurality of surface mounted positive thermal coefficient switch mounted on the connector.

12. The connector recited in claim 9, wherein the at least one connector port is a plurality of connector ports.

13. A connector, comprising:

at least one connector port in the connector to supply power or establish communications to a printed circuit board;

a plurality of connector leads to connect the at least one connector port to the printed circuit board; and

a plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches connected to the plurality of connector leads to cut off communications or power and protect at least one circuit in the printed circuit board, wherein a single connector lead of the plurality of connector leads is connected to a positive thermal coefficient switch of the plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches and is connected to a plurality of leads/traces contained within the printed circuit board and connected to the at least one circuit in the printed circuit board.

14. The connector recited in claim 13, wherein the plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches are a plurality of axial leaded positive thermal coefficient switches embedded within the connector.

15. The connector in claim 13, wherein the plurality of positive thermal coefficient switches are a plurality of surface mounted positive thermal coefficient switch mounted on the connector.